



NORTHALLERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT by Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December 1944.

Chairman	-	Herbert Atkinson Esq.,
Deputy Chairman	-	John Walker Esq.,
Clerk	-	Joseph Hunt Esq., Solicitor.
Medical Officer	-	J.A.Hutchinson M.D. M.S. M.R.C.S.
Deputy Medical Officer	-	A.E.Milne. M.B. Ch.B.
Sanitary Inspector	-	H.Templeman. A.R.S.I. C.R.S.I. Cert Meat & Other Foods.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1944. The General Health within your area has been quite good throughout the year; there was no serious outbreak of infectious disease. 127 Births occurred. 60 being males and 67 females; of the total births 5 were illegitimate, yielding, on an estimated population, a Birth rate of 16 per 1000: the rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.6.

101 Deaths of civilians were registered, 47 being males and 54 females = a Death rate of 12.5 per 1000 of estimated population; for the whole of England and Wales the rate was 17.6. Except for one case of Whooping Cough, and 1 from pneumonia no other death was registered as due to acute infectious disease. There were, however, three deaths registered as due to pulmonary tuberculosis, and one to non pulmonary tuberculosis. The average at death was 60.5.

24 Notifications of acute infectious disease were received; of these 12 were scarlet fever, 11 of them isolated in the Hospital. 4 were of Diphtheria, 2 of these yielded negative swabs on admission. 2 had been immunised. 6 were Whooping cough, 1 measles and 1 Paratyphoid Fever. No contact with any other Paratyphoid case could be ascertained. This patient never appeared to be very ailing but bacteriological reports were positive for many weeks; she was strictly isolated at home; all dejecta were disinfected with chlonide of lime and carefully disposed of.

The general sanitary circumstances of your area have been fully described in previous Annual Reports, particularly the prewar printed reports. Up to the present time we have not been able to undertake the carrying out of the big schemes, already approved by the Ministry, owing to war-time restrictions. 1. A piped supply of excellent water from Silton to practically the whole of the Northern and Eastern districts of your area; 2. a piped supply from Bedale Water Works to your Western district. As these are schemes of major importance and urgency, it is hoped that authority to spend and proceed will not now be long delayed. Apart from the amenity of a satisfactory water supply, it is a necessity in the production of clean and wholesome milk for which there is now great demand. 3. A further approved scheme, also of major importance, is the installation of modern sewage disposal works for Romanby which will be proceeded with as soon as authority and funds are forthcoming. There are other of your larger villages awaiting similar attention e.g. Brompton.

Your area is well served by District Nurses who are also much appreciated. It is, however, most disappointing that local Nursing Associations do not receive more generous support by those who may require the nurses' services. The cost of providing supply nurses when necessary, is now very heavy. An excellent Maternity Home at Mount Pleasant is available for cases requiring institutional treatment. Cases of Pneumonia are dealt with in the Rutson Hospital. 7 cases were treated here and all made good recoveries. Your Council provides and maintains an ambulance for infectious cases, and another for noninfectious cases by the Northallerton Hospital Association.

Tuberculosis.

4 new cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified: three of these received Sanatorium Treatment. There were also 2 cases of non pulmonary tuberculosis. During the year 3 deaths from pulmonary and 1 from non pulmonary tuberculosis were registered. Age and sex of new cases notified :-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>
Male	49	Female	1½
Male	32	Male	7
Male	20		
Female	50		
<u>Total</u> 4.		<u>Total</u> 2.	

Housing.

We have not been able to find an additional qualified Sanitary Inspector but the services of an experienced and dependable builder have been obtained to make an initial housing inspection of the whole area; all houses found to be defective will be inspected and reported on by your permanent official.

14 houses have already been built for agricultural workers, The Council propose building a total of 54 houses as their immediate post war programme:-

32 at Brompton.

6 at Osmotherley.

8 at Romanby.

4 at Borrowby.

4 at Ainderby.
54

Factories and Workshpps.

Satisfactory. Owing largely to difficulties in obtaining material the Linen Mills at Brompton are not employing nearly their normal number of hands. All young persons on their first employment, are medically examined and certified as to fitness.

Schools.

Sanitation at schools continues as frequently described. Pan closets at Osmotherley school should now be replaced by water closets. Osmotherley, Brompton and Romanby are the only villages where water for this purpose is available. When your approved water scheme is carried out all your schools will be dealt with in this way. In the meantime, the application of dried earth or other absorbent after use must be insisted on.

At very considerate charges milk and hot dinners are available for those children whose parents desire it.

Sewerage.

Owing to war time difficulties there has been delay in getting needful repairs and renewals carried out.

Great Smeaton Sewer serving the North end of this village to be relaid. Contract already let.

Lovesome Hill. Drain under the road broken in. Repaired.

Nether Silton. This is an old and faulty sewer. To be relaid with jointed and watertight sanitary pipes.

East Cowton. Outlet carried further from the highway and water course cleaned.

Appleton Wiske. Beck receiving sewage outfall cleaned and beck cleaned out.

Thrintoft. Two becks receiving outfall cleared out.

Osmotherley. Disposal works, Distributor ineffective. This has been renewed.

Thornton-le-Beans. The village sewer here should now be relaid.

Rivers and Streams. The river Wiske with Romanby and Brompton Becks

have been thoroughly cleaned out by mechanical means with very satisfactory results, and great relief, especially to the residents of Water End, Brompton.

Scavenging.

The provision of a motor refuse "Karrier" together with driver and two whole time men has effected striking improvement in the sanitation of our villages as compared with the previous method of letting the scavenging by contract for each village. One unit however does not and cannot serve the whole of your area so as to secure the emptying of pan closets once a week with the result that in a large part of your district the objectionable privy ashpit persists, and is not scavenged except by private arrangement. An additional unit should be provided at an early date. Scavenging by local contract was found to be expensive, unsatisfactory and difficult from time to time no tender was received for some villages in response to advertisement and special efforts by Mr. Templeman.

Preparation of Foods.

Milk A large volume of milk is sent out daily from your area to neighbouring towns. The bulk of it pasteurised by the "Dried Milk Products" factory dairy at Romanby. None of the farm dairies have facilities for pasteurising but much more care is now being taken in the handling of milk for sale than formerly. Samples are frequently taken for bacteriological examination by sanitary authorities in the reception areas and we have received very few complaints of unsatisfactory milk for some time past. Absence of a piped supply of pure water to many of our farms and failure always to secure prompt collection are difficulties still to be overcome.

An average of 9000 gallons of liquid milk are sent out daily by Dried Milk Products, all of it pasteurised, but only bottled milk as supplied to schools is sold as pasteurised milk. The bulk goes out in churns and although pasteurised is sold as undesignated milk. This precaution appears to the Dairy to be called for because many retailers obtain milk from other sources. Officials taking samples for examination should therefore be instructed to take samples from unbroken bulk only and on arrival. In addition, from time to time quantities of surplus milk are manufactured to dried milk powder.

I am indebted to A.L.Mullen Esq., M.R.C.V.S. Divisional Veterinary Inspector for the following information:-

The Cows on 213 premises have been inspected in accordance with The Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Under the Tuberculosis Order 1938 twenty one animals have been slaughtered and found to be diseased:-

Cows in Milk	17.
Other cows	3.
Other Bovines.	1.
	<u>21.</u>

Found on post mortem examination to be suffering from:-

Tuberculosis of udder	1.
Tuberculosis with chronic cough	19.
Giving Tuberculosis milk	1.
	<u>21.</u>

There have been several notifications by the police of suspected bovine anthrax, but in all cases pathological reports have been negative.

Meat. There are now no private slaughter houses. All killing and dressing is done at a central slaughter house in the urban area. Butchers shops and covered vans are satisfactory except that more frequent applications of lime wash is desirable.

Bakeries. Only one within your area. Satisfactory.

Water Supplies.

Village pumps at Appleton Wiske, Hornby and Thriestoft have required repairs and there was failure and delay in the supply by water ram at Kiplin. In other respects water services and defects continue as frequently described in previous reports. Reference to your scheme for remedying much of this is made above.

Piped supplies at Romanby and Brompton (obtained from Northallerton Urban Authority) have been much improved by an additional main to the service reservoir on Bullamoor.

Notice has been given that the piped supply to West Rounton Village from the late Sir Hugh Bell's Water tower may not be continued indefinitely.

Osmotherley supply - no change.

Immunisation.

There are 16 schools within this area and 2 Clinics were held at each of them after parents of children known to be still unimmunised had been circularised by appealing pamphlet containing a slip for signed parental consent and urging the need for parents to secure the protection afforded by immunisation for all children over the age of one year. The result with regard to children of school age has been gratifying, but disappointing as regards the under fives. This is probably largely due to the scattered character of the area - about 8 acres per person. May I suggest here that if qualified and specially instructed District Nurses were authorised to give this treatment to the under fives when acceptable to parents, the percentage of protected children under 5 would also leave little more to be desired.

Here I must acknowledge the great help both teachers and district nurses have been pleased to give.

Child Welfare Centres at Northallerton Smeaton and Osmotherley are well attended and much appreciated. Opportunity was taken here to induce as many parents as possible to have their children immunised while attending the centres.

In common with the country generally there has been a considerable reduction in the numbers of diphtheria notifications due no doubt to the protection afforded by immunisation. If parents would dutifully see to it that all children over the age of one year receive this treatment Diphtheria would be practically wiped out - a result already achieved in America.

GROUP FEVER HOSPITAL.

serving Northallerton Urban and Rural Districts together with Bedale Thirsk and Helmsley Rural Districts.

During the year 157 cases were received. Of those treated here 69 were civilian and 84 military. It was necessary to transfer 4 cases to Guisborough owing to inability to isolate satisfactorily a variety of infections at the same time. Military authorities send to hospital cases which, in civil life, are dealt with at home e.g. Mumps, Chicken Pox, Rubella.

12 civilian cases were Diphtheria. 10 of these were said to have been immunised. 2 yielded negative swabs on admission. The Military sent in 21 cases of Diphtheria; so far as was ascertained none of these had been immunised.

Except for painting of the Scarlet Fever Block and repairs to the roadway and paths no renovations to structure or equipment has been required. Efforts to obtain a second wardmaid have again been unsuccessful.

Administration of the hospital has been quite satisfactory. The Staff received some increase of salary and is otherwise unchanged. All cases made good recoveries and no secondary case occurred. No surgical interference was called for. All civil cases are brought in by Ambulance in charge of Matron or Sister.

In concluding my report I wish to acknowledge the prompt and efficient help always accorded me by Mr. Templeman and my professional neighbours.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.A.HUTCHINSON.

M.O.E.

